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May 19, 2011

Ms. Cynthia Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
United States Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Ex Parte No. 705

Dear Ms. Brown:

The ChemGroup understands that the Surface Transportation Board is reviewing the level of rail competition in the national rail system. We appreciate the opportunity to register our support for increased competition for rail dependent shippers.

The ChemGroup depends on reliable and affordable shipments of products to remain competitive in an increasingly competitive global market place. We encourage the Board to revise its policies to ensure the maximum rail to rail competition possible in our current consolidated freight rail system, as intended by the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act.

Competition, of course, is the cornerstone of both our national economy and the nation's freight rail policy - and what the freight railroads sought in 1980 when they advocated the enactment of the Staggers Rail Act. The irony today is that foreign products imported into our nation in containers enjoy the benefits of rail competition while many domestic rail dependent shippers do not when moving freight around our nation on the national freight rail system.

A competitive national rail system is essential to American consumers, the creation of American jobs, increased American exports and a healthy national economy. Improved competition policies by the Board can increase competition in our national rail system, to the national good.

Sincerely,

Russell Leathem

Russell Leathem
Director of Procurement

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